

REMARKS

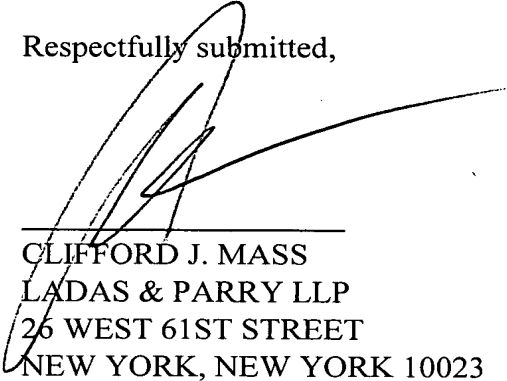
The Official Action of 12 March 2007 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The claims stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Shiraishi et al (paragraph 5 of the Official Action), or under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shiraishi et al in view of Fujimori (paragraph 7 of the Official Action) or in view of Hashizume et al (paragraph 8 of the Official Action) or in view of Heintz et al (paragraph 9 of the Official Action). Certain claims also stand rejected for alleged nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-15 of US Patent No. 6,742,900 (paragraph 12 of the Official Action). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

In order to overcome the rejections advanced by the Examiner, amendatory action has been taken in the claims. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the disclosure in the specification as filed at, for example, page 20, second full paragraph, and Fig. 7 to recite that a resilient cushion member is provided between each optical component of at least the color beam splitting optical system. Applicant respectfully notes that this claimed feature is not shown or suggested in the primary reference, Shiraishi et al, or in any of the cited secondary references. Moreover, this feature is not claimed in US Patent No. 6,742,900.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to the claims removes the bases for the rejections of record and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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